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**(54) FLEXIBLE FOAM HAVING IMPROVED WATER
ABSORPTION AND ITS PRODUCTION**

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To prepare a flexible foam in a dry state having improved water absorption, by foaming, solidifying, and dehydrating a mixture of an aqueous polyurethane and silk fibroin subjected to a specific treatment, in a specified proportion in the presence of a surfactant.

CONSTITUTION: (A) An aqueous polyurethane (20W60wt%) is mixed with (B) silk fibroin, e.g. a

1W20wt% aqueous solution obtained by dialysis of a silk material dissolved in an aqueous alkali(earth) metal, and a surfactant. The mixture is foamed by blowing air therein, solidified with a gelatinizing agent, and dehydrated to form the objective foam with a moisture content of 300W3000%, a water absorption rate \approx 10mm/min, a moisture absorption of 3W15%, and a bulk density of 0.01W0.3g/cm³, comprising 40W95wt% of the polyurethane and 5W60wt% of the fibroin.

USE: Sanitary materials and hemostatic sponges.

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